GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2345
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2016
Free Calling and Roaming
Mahto Dr. Banshilal

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently a private mobile service provider company has created competitive environment for public sector mobile service providing companies Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) along with other private mobile companies by offering free calling and roaming service to subscribers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether the Government intends to provide free calling facility across the country through mobile service providers;

(c) if so, details thereof and whether the Government/Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has issued any directions to public and private mobile service provider companies in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the Government proposes to free the national roaming across the country as envisaged in National Telecom Policy and if so, the details and present status of the proposal?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS &
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)

(a) to (d) Yes Madam, RJIL (Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited) has launched 4G services in September, 2016 with voice calls free to any network across the country with no roaming charges. Hence, RJIL has created competitive environment for public sector mobile service providing companies Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) along with other private mobile companies by offering free calling and roaming service to subscribers in the country.

At present, the Government has no plan to provide free calling facility across the country through mobile service providers and Government has not issued any direction to public and private mobile companies in this regard.

(e) At present, the Government has no proposal to discontinue the roaming charges for mobile subscribers. However, TRAI through the Telecommunication Tariff (60th Amendment) Order, 2015 dated 09.04.2015 prescribed the ceilings for tariff for voice calls and SMS while on national roaming, which came into effect from 01.05.2015. Details of national roaming tariff are given below:

Item	Ceiling tariff as per TTO (60th Amendment), 2015
Outgoing local voice call	Re.0.80 per minute
Outgoing long distance (inter-circle) voice call	Re.1.15 per minute
Incoming voice call	Re.0.45 per minute
Outgoing local SMS	Rs.0.25 per SMS
Outgoing long distance (inter circle) SMS	Re.0.38 per SMS

Through this amendment Order, TRAI has mandated the TSPs to offer a Special Roaming Tariff Plan to its pre-paid and post-paid subscribers wherein incoming voice calls while on national roaming shall be free, on payment of fixed charge, if any.

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